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Governor

Alabama Medicaid Agency

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MICHAEL E. LEWIS
Commissioner

September 15, 2000

PROVIDER NOTICE 00-10

TO: Optometrists
SUBJECT: Charging a Delivery Fee

It has come to Medicaid's attention that some optometrists may be charging a delivery and repair fee to Medicaid recipients when examinations and other optometric services are performed in a nursing home setting. Federal regulations prohibit charging the patient for services covered by Medicaid.

Medicaid's regulations provide the range of covered optometric services. Medicaid Rule 560-X-17-.03 (2) (e) provides for the services to be rendered in the nursing home when medically necessary and the patient's physician has documented that the patient is unable to leave the nursing home. Rule 560-X-17-.03 (3) provides the range of services: "when eyeglasses are required these include dispensing, fitting, frame selection, procurement of glasses and adjusting". Delivery of the glasses is included in these services. Dispensing implies delivery and fitting and adjusting could not be accomplished in the nursing home setting absent delivery of the glasses. Delivery is therefore an included component of these services and cannot be charged to the patient as "non-covered".

Medicaid Rule 560-X-17-.05 (11)(a) reiterates the federal regulation that the provider agrees to accept Medicaid payment as payment in full and no additional charges can be made to the recipient, sponsor, or family.

Please review your current practices to ensure that you are not in violation of the above provisions. Failure to abide by the regulations can result in termination of provider status.

Michael E. Lewis, Commissioner

Distribution List:
Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Alabama Optometric Association
Alabama Nursing Home Association
Electronic Data Systems (EDS)
Alabama Medicaid Agency

WDW/ca

REMINDER: All Medicaid recipients are required to present proper identification to a provider of medical care or service. Providers must verify eligibility before providing treatment or service under the Medicaid Program

AVRS 1-800-727-7848

MEDICAID FRAUD HOTLINE 1-800-824-6584

Our Mission - to provide an efficient and effective system of financing health care for our beneficiaries.